street children under which grants are sanctioned to the vo untary organisations for the welfare of the street children facing destitution, neglect abuse and exploitation. In Delhi, this scheme is being implemented through 7 voluntary organisations and they are conducting vocational courses which include autorepairing, cutting and tailoring, book-binding, screen-printing etc. which are useful for their rehabilitation in society.

Homes for widows and destitute women in Punjab

704. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 661 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th May, 1994 and state :

(a) what progress has been made with regard to opening homes for widows, or destitute women and their children in the country particularly in Punjab in order to provide social security to them ; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) and (b) There is at present no scheme of Homes for widows and destitute women. A scheme for Short Stay Homes for Women and Children is being implemented which extends temporary shelter and rehabilitation to those women and girls who are in social and moral danger due to family problems, mental strains, social ostracism, exploitation or other causes. This scheme is implemented by Deptt. of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of HRD. The scheme provides for running of Homes with the facilities of medical care, psychiatric treatment, case-work services, occupational therapy, educational-cum-vocational training, recreational facilities etc. A Statement showing the number of Short Stay Homes in the country including Punjab is attached.

Statement

Details of short stay homes in the country

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT.	No. of Short Stay Homes
1	Andhra Pradesh	39
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3	Assam	4
4	Bihar	12
5	Goa	2
6	Gujarat	6
7	Haryana	5
8	Himachal Pradesh	4
9	Jammu & Kashmir	2
10	Karnataka	12
11	Kerala	9

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT.	No. of Short Stay Home
12	Madhya Pradesh	6
13	Maharashtra	28
14	Manipur	3
15	Orissa	20
16	Punjab	5
17	Rajasthan	9
18	Sikkim	1
19	Tamil Nadu	16
20	Tripura	5
21	Uttar Pradesh	25
22	West Bengal	28
23	Chandigarh	2
24	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
25	Delhi	6
26	Pondicherry	2
27	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
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Recommendations of the Task Force under Justice Bhagwati

705. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the principle recommendations of the task force under Justice Bhagwati regarding adoption;

(b) what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations; and

(c) what steps have been taken to simplify the laws relating to adoption and bring about uniformity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) The salient features of the main recommendations of the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Justice Mr. P. N. Bhagwati is annexed as statement. (*See* below).

(b) The recommendations of the Task Force are under examination in this Ministry.

(c) There is no uniform law to regulate adoption in this country. Hindus can adopt a child through a religious ceremony or under Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956 while others can take a child under their guardianship in terms of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. Attempts made in the past for enacting a leislation for adoption